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UP TO AUGUST 9, 1968

3,088 U.S. aircraft were downed in North Viet Nam

GENERALIZED OFFENSIVES AND UPRISINGS

Bring War Behind Enemy Line and Upset and Foil All Enemy Strategic Plans

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IN SIX MONTHS:

★ 380,000 Enemy Troops Including 133,000 G.I s and Satellite Mercenaries Killed, Wounded or Captured, 4,400 Planes and Helicopters, 8,730 Vehicles, 580 War Vessels Put out of Action.

★ Hundreds of Villages Liberated, the Puppet Administration Wiped Out, and Revolutionary Administrative Organs Set Up.

(P.L.A.F. Special Communiqué N° 8)

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The Go Dau (urban center in Tay Ninh province, South Viet Nam) people welcoming Liberation fighters

A POLICY THAT GOES BANKRUPT

WASHINGTON doesn't like its Saigon stooges to be called puppets. This was proclaimed by Mr Harriman at the July 24 session of the Paris talks. The American representative assured us that in Saigon there was "a legitimate government, elected by the people of South Viet Nam" and that "its armed forces and administrative structure total more than one million persons."

At the June 19 session, he had also told us that it was not the U.S.A. which had created that "Republic of Viet Nam," whose government had existed even before the Geneva Conference, and that at the time of the signing of the 1954 Agreements, that government was "completely independent from the French Union."

A BIT OF HISTORY

SINCE Mr Harriman has taken pains to recall history, let us examine with him a few historical facts.

For instance the origin of the Saigon puppet government.

Let us begin with this quotation dated November 1951

(Continued page 2)

Brother Socialist Countries' Precious Assistance, a Contribution to the Triumph of Our Righteous Cause

IN the period between end-May and end-July, the D.R.V.N. Government economic delegation headed by Le Thanh Nghi, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers Party C.C. and Vice Premier, paid friendship visits to the brotherly socialist countries and held talks with them on economic and military aid to Viet Nam for 1969. The delegation was warmly received by the Parties, Governments and people of the host countries.

In the talks with Party and Government leaders of the fraternal countries, Le Thanh Nghi described the brilliant victories won by the Vietnamese people in the military, political, diplomatic and other fields. He also denounced intensified U.S. war efforts in Viet Nam, and exposed the obduracy and perfidy of the U.S. Government at the Paris talks.

The Party and Government leaders of the socialist countries enthusiastically acclaimed the new, resounding victories of the armed forces and people in both parts of Viet Nam, especially the vigorous development of the fight of the South Vietnamese people, and once again declared their full support for the 4 points of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

A.N. Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., stated that the Soviet people had been following with keen interest the Vietnamese people's anti-U.S. fight for national salvation and regarded it as their own. The Soviet Union, he said, will continue to give greater support and assistance in all fields to the Vietnamese people to help them win complete victory in their just struggle for independence and freedom.

Chinese Premier Chou En-lai warmly hailed the brilliant victories of the Vietnamese armed forces and people and made it plain that the long-standing militant solidarity and fraternal friendship between China and Viet Nam are very firm and unshakable. He said that China would do all in her power to support and assist the Vietnamese people in every respect to defeat the U.S. aggressors completely.

The Party and Government leaders of the other brotherly socialist countries also reiterated their determination to strengthen their unity with Viet Nam and increase their support and assistance to the Vietnamese people so as to hasten their victory. They strongly condemned the obduracy and bellicosity of the U.S. imperialists and insisted that the latter put an unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., stop their aggression in South Viet Nam, bring their troops home and let the Vietnamese people settle their internal affairs themselves without any foreign interference.

During its tour of the socialist countries, the D.R.V.N. Government economic delegation had the opportunity to see for itself the ever-growing movement in support of Viet Nam and the ever closer solidarity between the Vietnamese people and those of the other socialist countries for the sake of the communist ideal and the triumph of socialism, national independence, democracy and peace.

Dealing with the splendid successes of the delegation's visit, the communiqué issued on August 5, 1968 by the D.R.V.N. Government Council pointed out:

"At a moment when the U.S. imperialists still obdurately continue to step up their war of aggression against our country, the Government Council highly appreciates the deep sympathy, powerful support and great assistance given by the Parties, Governments and people of the brotherly countries to the just and certainly victorious fight of our entire people and to the correct position of our Party and government and that of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. The recent signing of agreements on economic and military aid constitutes a great, invaluable and wholehearted assistance given by the other socialist countries to our people, a manifestation of the spirit of proletarian internationalism, which will enable us to increase our economic and defence potentials in order to completely defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors. It is also a positive contribution to the strengthening and development of the militant solidarity, co-operation and friendship between our countries and the other socialist countries in the common revolutionary cause. The Government Council expresses the sincere and deep gratitude of the Vietnamese people to the Parties, Governments and people of the socialist countries."

PARIS TALKS' 16th SESSION

THE 16th session of the official conversations between the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government and that of the U.S. Government was held in Paris on August 7.

The U.S. Government envoy, Mr. Averell Harriman, spoke first. He systematically ignored universal condemnation of the U.S. which has not only refused to end unconditionally the bombing of the D.R.V.N., but has instead intensified its air raids on North Viet Nam and its war of aggression in South Viet Nam. Mr. Harriman also slighted the world's opposition to the U.S. bellicose stance as shown once again in Johnson's July 31 and August 1, 1968, statements and in Dean Rusk's July 30, 1968 statement. The U.S. representative awkwardly declared that the U.S. position "remained constant." He again demanded some "reciprocal action" from the D.R.V.N. side and repeated the shop-worn assertion that the U.S. would stop the bombing "at the appropriate time and in the appropriate circumstances."

On behalf of Minister of State Xuan Thuy, Ambassador Ha Van Lau refuted all of Mr. Harriman's arguments. He pointed out that in fact the U.S. Government continued to intensify its aggressive war in both South and North Viet Nam following U.S. President Johnson's March 31 speech.

The Vietnamese negotiator emphasized: "The U.S. President and Secretary of State bluntly said that the U.S. government would not stop bombing North Viet Nam in the present situation. Moreover, the U.S. authorities have brazenly "escalated" terms for their complete cessation of the bombing of North Viet Nam." While the D.R.V.N. Government's representative had categorically rejected the U.S. claim that only when North Viet Nam has shown in deeds some "sign of restraint" will the U.S. stop completely the bombing. U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk recently asked for a reply through official and competent channels and guarantees for not only the present time but also for a long time to come.

Referring to the recent spirited demonstrations of Americans in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, etc., under the slogans "Stop the war in Viet Nam", "Bring U.S. troops home", "Stop bombing the D.R.V.N." etc..., Mr. Ha Van Lau said: "Thus, the great masses of the people in the United States do not let themselves be taken in by the bellicosé U.S. authorities, and diverted from their mounting movement against the dirty war of aggression in Viet Nam, especially at the present stage of the electoral campaign in the U.S.. Mr. Dean Rusk called on the Vietnamese people to adopt the theory of "live and let live", and on the D.R.V.N. to "cooperate" with the U.S. to "advance toward peace"! In fact, it is more proper to let the Vietnamese people address such a call to the U.S. government! Because it is the U.S. which has committed aggression, started the war, interfered in the internal affairs of Viet Nam, sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, hampered the peaceful reunification of Viet Nam, and trampled underfoot the Vietnamese people's rights to live and to choose their own way of life freely".

The Vietnamese spokesman then supplied concrete evidence of the continued escalation of the war in Viet Nam, intensification of the war of destruction against the D.R.V.N., use of more aircraft especially B.52 strategic bombers than previously, stepped up attacks by aircraft, warships and artillery, and numerous savage crimes against the Vietnamese people. In South Viet Nam, since March 31 the U.S. government has brought in 40,000 additional U.S. troops and 5,000 troops of Thailand, forced the Saigon puppet administration to push up forcible conscription and increase the puppet army strength, launch many raids and use bombs and bullets in bloody repressive actions in town and country.

Mr. Ha Van Lau pointed out that while the U.S. government arrogated to itself the right to pursue the war of aggression, it urged the Vietnamese people to show "restraint" in exercising their right to oppose aggression, which is an inalienable right to self-defence. The U.S. government has deliberately refused to end completely and unconditionally the bombing of the D.R.V.N., and is instead preparing public opinion for fresh escalations, thus aggravating the present impasse of the Paris talks.

The D.R.V.N. diplomat declared: "Once again, we solemnly repeat that the U.S. must stop completely and unconditionally its bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. Then we shall be ready to discuss other problems of interest to both parties, thereby creating favourable conditions for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem, on the basis of the respect of the national fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people. By persistently raising questions irrelevant to the main object of these conversations, the U.S. side is only trying to mislead public opinion and elude what is being demanded by public opinion. This will not help solve any problem at all. If the U.S. government continues to wage war and challenge public opinion all over the world and in the United States itself, they will only invite more trouble for the U.S. and bring ever greater losses in every respect to the American people and will be more strongly opposed and isolated. Whatever deceptive manoeuvre, blackmail and violence the U.S. may resort to, it cannot shake the will of the Vietnamese people who are struggling for genuine independence and freedom".

After Mr Ha Van Lau concluded his speech, Mr. Harriman again tried to plead for the U.S. and stubbornly insisted on "reciprocity" and "restraint" from the D.R.V.N. and the Vietnamese people. His absurd contention and claim were flatly rejected by Mr. Ha Van Lau.

A POLICY THAT GOES BANKRUPT

(Continued from page 1)

from Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy, who was to become President of the United States: "In Indochina we have allied ourselves to the desperate efforts of the French regime to hang on to the remnants of empire. There is no broad, general support of the native South Viet Nam government among the people of that area.

These words from J.F. Kennedy contained a double accusation: one against the leaders of France who were waging a war of colonial reconquest: the other against those of his own country who were helping them pursue that war. As the Senator remarked, the so-called "Vietnamese government" did not have the support of its people. The reason for this was very simple: it had been entirely created by the French colonialists, who were using it as a tool for enslaving the Vietnamese nation. Incidentally let us bear in mind that the great majority of the valets of the U.S.A. now serving in Saigon, Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky included, have sprung from that puppet administration, or from the puppet army under it.

The American imperialists on the one hand were critical of the French old-style *colonialism, but on the other hand went on backing their attempt to subdue our people. Parallel to American aid to the French colonialists, was the relief of those French by the Americans, who substituted a new* colonialism *for the old one.*

That process was juridically completed in June 1954, with the severance of the "State of Viet Nam" from the French Union. Unfortunately it was a bit late, since Dien Bien Phu witnessed the victory of the Vietnamese people being crowned with the decisive agreements, signed under the American imperialists' spiteful but powerless eyes.

It was in the Southern regroupment zone, whose civilian administration was to be transferred to the French side, that the Americans carried their neo-colonialist plan into effect. Ngo Dinh Diem, who had received training for years at the Maryknoll seminary in Lakewood, overthrew Bao Dai, the man of the French, and a new signboard, "Republic of Viet Nam", replaced that of the "State of Viet Nam".

Here is how French General Navarre, a friend of the Pentagon's, depicts the working of that new administration installed by the Americans:

"There is no American Governor, Resident or High Commissioner. But there is an ambassador of the United States without whose action nothing could be done. The peoples believe themselves free for they are governed by politicians of their own race, without knowing that the latter, pitilessly swayed by money, are only American puppets."

And here is what the French paper Le Monde says about the puppet army:

"When General O' Daniel presided over the training of the Vietnamese army, he would impose his views on circumspect a lies by banging his fist on the table and shouting, 'Who pays?' The Vietnamese officers would then ask for a break to discuss the matter among themselves, and would come back to declare that they agreed."

A thin coat of democratic veneer has been put on those American creatures. Since 1954, several elections have been held, which allows Mr Harriman to speak about "a government elected by the people." In particular, a ballyhoo was kicked up about the "presidential elections" of September 1967, which brought Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky to power. But it was none other than Nguyen Cao Ky who made the following declaration to the West-German paper Stern*:*

"The elections here have been a loss of time and money. They are a joke. They have served to install a regime that has nothing in common with the people — a useless, corrupt regime."

AMERICAN DESIGNS

WE have recalled just one page of the recent history of Viet Nam to drive home to the American imperialists that their attempt at dolling up their Saigon puppets would lead them nowhere. The jackdaw is always recognisable even if it plumes itself with feathers borrowed from the peacock. The puppet army and administrative structure, which "total over a million persons," do not diminish in the least the anti-national and anti-popular character of that regime of traitors installed by the Americans against the will of the people. That the "law on general mobilisation" promulgated by Nguyen Van Thieu on Washington's orders should result in the forcible drafting of still more young men to serve as cannon fodder for the aggressors far from reinforcing the "independence of the Saigon government," only extends an already long list of crimes perpetrated by it against the nation.

The recent strenuous efforts exerted by the American leaders at Honolulu, Paris and elsewhere to cover up the puppet character of the Saigon regime were prompted by various motives:

The essential and long-range one is to achieve their strategic design of maintaining South Viet Nam under American sway, as a U.S. neo-colony and military base.

The immediate one is to hamper the Paris talks, for, banking on the existence of a so-called "independent government" in Saigon, the Americans have tried to justify the presence of half a million G.I.s in South Viet Nam and the demand for a price for the cessation of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.

The presidential elections in the U.S.A. are a no less important factor urging the Democratic Johnson administration to gloss the image of the puppets. Efforts have even been made to present them as going ever stronger and the puppet army as becoming ever more combative. Noisy propaganda has been conducted about a possible "Vietnamisation" of the war, which would allow the American expeditionary corps to withdraw its first units as soon as 1969. In short, the fragile boat of the Saigon marionettes is also called upon to help the ruling clique in the White House to weather the cape of the elections!

BEATEN BUT STILL STUBBORN

NOTHING warrants this artificial optimism if one casts a look at the real situation in South Viet Nam. Since the beginning of the Lunar Year, under the impact of general attacks and simultaneous uprisings by the people and their armed forces, the position of the American aggressors has become alarming. Urban centres, the enemy's last lairs, have been besieged and attacked by the P.L.A.F. Saigon is undergoing the constant threat of a new offensive by the latter.

The Thieu — Ky puppet regime is rapidly decaying. The appearance of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces means that all social strata are now opposed to it.

Unable to defend itself even in Saigon, the puppet army had to call the Americans to its rescue when attacked in May by the Liberation forces. Unfortunately for it, the Americans themselves have been badly mauled and have suffered heavily.

More than ever, events have borne out the opinion of such American personalities as Senators Stephen Young and Robert Kennedy, who have said that the Thieu — Ky clique could survive only thanks to American weapons and troops.

The defeat of the Americans is a foregone conclusion. This had been admitted by bourgeois observers. Yet the American aggressors have not made up their minds to their defeat. Bent on conquering global hegemony, they are clinging to South Viet Nam.

Swimming against the tide of the people's war, they clutch at that straw: the puppet regime. But the straw is being washed away by the impetuous flow. Let the obstinate swimmer beware!

THE NORTH — GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

Anti-U.S. Young Volunteers' Brigade For National Salvation Has Its Third Birthday

LUU MINH CHAU
Secretary, Viet Nam Labour Youth Union

THE war of destruction waged by U.S. imperialism against North Viet Nam has set new tasks to our youth, including that of keeping communications and transport going and developing production in the worst hit places. It was to meet these requirements that the Brigade of Young Volunteers to Fight against U.S. Aggression, for National Salvation — a special working army entirely composed of young men and women organized in the military pattern and entrusted with the task of producing and fighting while raising their political, cultural and professional standards — came into being.

More than three years ago, in response to the appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the D.R.V.N. Government and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Labour Youth Union, within a short period of time, tens of thousands of young men and women enthusiastically joined the Brigade and speedily set out, covering thousands of kilometres of road daily attacked by enemy planes to take up their jobs wherever they were needed.

PRODUCING AND FIGHTING

NEARLY all the base areas and work-sites of the Brigade units have been priority targets of enemy planes. The raids have been so intense and so frequent that on many portions of road, "new bombs throw up old ones and new shells plough up old ones" as the Young Volunteers themselves put it. On some roads, over a long distance there is no more greenness of vegetation to be seen but only the reddish colour of the upturned hilly soil or the brownish colour of powder on the rocks. But even while enemy planes are raiding, many units of the Brigade take advantage of each minute of lull to plant mines and blast the fallen rocks out of the way or to fill up the road so that the lorries can roll on.

Over the past three years, the Young Volunteers Brigade has made 15 new roads, 800 kilometres of auxiliary motor road, 100 sidings for rail carriages, broadened and improved 345 metres of motor road and built 500 projects of all kinds (bridges, culverts, ferry landing stages...)

The Ba Dinh quarter, Hanoi city, inhabitants, sending off their sons to the People's Army.

They have also repaired in time numerous portions of road either damaged by the enemy bombs or by torential rains, working by day and by night, defying the scorching sun and raging storms. The total volume of rock and earth moved by them for construction or repair purposes amounts to more than 10 million cubic metres. Standing ready to fight enemy planes while working they have shot down 7 U.S. planes with rifles and done their bits in the downing of many other planes and the capture of many air pirates.

The Young Volunteers units in the national defence service have also honourably fulfilled their tasks. Likewise, those in the forestry service have quickly learned the trade of timber extraction, afforestation and transportations of timber and topped all the targets set for them.

TEMPERED IN THE FIGHT

BESIDES being an organisation in which the youth can best serve the nation-wide resistance to U.S. aggression, the Young Volunteers Brigade has also been meant to be a great school for these young men and women. With this end in sight, the leaders of all Young Volunteers units have cooperated with local authorities to provide facilities to the young members to improve their political, cultural and technical standards, to enjoy recreation and improve their health. For a member of the Brigade, learning is a task as important as working and fighting.

Through political education, especially through the practice of production and the fighting, they have become more and more deeply attached to each bridge abutment and each portion of road they have to build or defend and, more generally speaking, to any task assigned them. Many units or individuals have become tempered fighters with an iron-like will, ready to lay down their lives for the Fatherland.

In their cultural and technical education, the Young Volunteers have also had to overcome innumerable difficulties such as the lack of teachers and light — most of their study time is at night — or the inadequate supply or late arrival of schooling materials such as paper or pens. All this, however, is not allowed to interfere with their progress. If at first, the number of those having primary education accounted for 47%, it has now dropped to 5%; whereas the number of those having secondary education has gone up from 48% to 57%, and those with the standard of the 7th form of general education upward from 5% to 38%.

The general knowledge of Brigade members in economic and technical management has also improved substantially. Though having learnt their trades only recently, many now have reached a standard of technical skill equivalent to that of second or even third grade workers. Many cadres of the Young Volunteers have done remarkably well in drawing up plans as well as in organizing their jobs.

Most remarkable is the fact that young women make up some 60% of the Young Volunteers. Many units almost entirely consist of young girls. The young women have proved their worth in production and the fighting as well as in any other tasks assigned them.

DROWNING BOMB EXPLOSIONS WITH SONGS

THE life of Young Volunteers units is far from being a succession of dreary and strenuous hours devoted to work, the fighting and learning. Their cultural life is carefully attended to along with unceasing efforts to improve their material well being. The Young Volunteers have organized their own crop cultivation and live stock breeding to improve their daily rations. They have also enlivened their days with healthy recreation suitable to the war-time conditions. An optimistic atmosphere prevails at their living quarters and their building sites. After their hours of work and fighting the young men and women will not miss their sport games. There is the movement called "Let us drown the bomb explosions with our songs" which, originating from the Young Volunteers units, is now spreading to many other branches and services in North Viet Nam. The roads which are usually their battleground also serve as a stage for song and dance performances. A camouflage kerchief may well become an adornment for our young girls in their traditional dances which they perform during a break or after a day's work.

TENS of thousands of Young Volunteers have had the joy and honour to join the People's Army, thousands of others have been sent to study at colleges or vocational schools in the country or abroad to become scientists or technicians. Thousands of others have been given jobs in various branches and services and are contributing to the economic and cultural development programs. Tens of thousands of Young Volunteers have been admitted to the Viet Nam Labour Youth Union and thousands of them have had the great honour to join the glorious Viet Nam Workers' Party. Company 759 and one of its members, young woman Nguyen Thi Kim Hue, have been commended as Heroic Unit and Heroine respectively by the National Assembly and Government.

At a time when our people's sacred resistance to U.S. aggression and for national salvation is entering a new period full of crucial trials and also of glorious victories, and on the eventful days of the historic August, thousands upon thousands of young men and women, upholding the cause of their elders and pushing ahead the "three ready's" movement*, are joyfully and zealously setting out to assume any task at any place where they are needed.

** Ready to join the army, ready to fight and to fulfil any task assigned and ready to go wherever they are needed by the Fatherland.*

CO-ORDINATED ACTION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

SINCE 1959 a movement has developed in "coupling" in sworn brotherhood provinces, towns, localities, combat units and work teams in the North and in the South has been initiated. Through exchanges of information these twin units have been urging one another to redouble their efforts and helping each other in the struggle against the U.S. and for national salvation. We give below some examples of the results obtained in a number of production units in the D.R.V.N. — *Ed.*

• The Huong Lung cooperative, Cam Khe district, Vinh Phu province (formerly Vinh Phuc and Phu Tho provinces) made up almost entirely of Catholics, has put aside 25 hectares of land to grow rice which will be presented as gift to their compatriots in Long Chau Sa, a southern twin of the former Phu Tho province. This rice has been grown by Huong Lung co-op farmers on an essentially voluntary basis, the cost of the cultivation not being covered by the co-operative. The yield of the last eight harvests has been raised gradually and up to now, the quantity of paddy saved for Long Chau Sa has amounted to over 40 tons.

• After the visit of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. permanent delegation in Hanoi, the collective farmers of ex-Hung Yen province have enthusiastically stepped up the high yield farming movement "for the sake of South Viet Nam and the brotherly Long An province". The 1967 target was an increase of 100 kg of paddy per hectare; it was actually 50 kgs and in the case of Tuy An co-operative (Tien Lu district) 750 kgs.

• In the "produce for the sake of the Southern kith-and-kin" year, the farmers of Tien Yen district, Ha Bac province, have dug a 7 million cubic metre reservoir to irrigate 170 hectares of land, thus turning these one-crop rice fields into 2-crop high yield fields. In addition, 110 hectares of land were planted with eucalyptus, and called "Loc Ninh (a province in South Viet Nam) wood."

• 75 workers of a bus body-building workshop have made 2 coaches to be presented to Hanoi's Southern twin cities Hue and Saigon. In the spirit of the recent South Viet Nam uprisings, they have cut down the work time by 10 days.

• In the first 6 months of 1968, the Tran Hung Dao Engineering works in Hanoi fulfilled 68 per cent of the 1968 plan. As the result of this emulation drive for the sake of South Viet Nam, two Diesel engines were sent by a delegation of Tran Hung Dao works to the South Viet Nam N.F.L. permanent representation in Hanoi as a July 20 gift to the Southern compatriots.

• In the "2 million metres of textiles, 15,000 pieces of knitwear and 15 tons of medicines for the South" movement, up to mid-July 1968, that is within 45 days only, 9 weaving mills and pharmaceutical factories in Hanoi turned out an additional quantity of 771,700 metres of textiles, 6,400 pieces of knitwear and 13 tons of medicines outside the 'plan.

• The medical service of Thanh Hoa province managed to save a quantity of medicines and various medical instruments worth thousands of dongs with which an hospital can be built for Thanh-hoa's Southern twin province of Quang Nam (South Viet Nam).

• The inhabitants of Thanh Hoa province has completed a library with 6,000 books for its sister Quang Nam province.

• In eight years of sworn brotherhood the Cultural service of ex-Phu Tho province published 3,000 books about its Southern twin province of Long Chau Sa.

Generalized Offensives and Uprisings Bring War Behind Enemy Line and Upset and Foil All Enemy Strategic Plans

GIAI PHONG Press Agency *has just released the Special Communique N° 8 of the P.L.A.F. Command dated August 5, 1968.*

This text reviewed the general situation in South Viet Nam after six months of general offensives and uprisings since Tet festival. These historic events are an important milestone in the South Viet Nam people's patriotic resistance to U.S. aggression which has shifted to a period of revolutionary development by "leaps and bounds" in various fields, a crucial period for the overthrow of the puppet administration and crushing of the U.S. imperialists' will of aggression in order to achieve the fundamental objectives of the revolution in South Viet Nam, namely: independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity and eventual reunification of the country.

In its first part the communique summed up the events since 1965, date on which Washington decided to send an ever-growing expeditionary corps to prevent the imminent collapse of the puppet regime. Stress was laid in the communique on the development of hostilities since June 1968 after the publication of the P.L.A.F. Command's last special communique (June 5). Special communique N°8 pointed out the pessimism now prevailing in the minds of the aggressors who, far from being certain to carry the day, begin now to see that victory is not only impossible for them but even defeat may be ahead.

The second part of the communique gave details of the successes recorded over the last six months by the South Vietnamese people in the military, political and economic field, as well as the great impact of these victories on the final outcome of the war.

The last part contained a severe warning to the aggressors and their lackeys and a solemn reaffirmation of the South Vietnamese people's determination to bring the patriotic resistance against U.S. aggression to victory.

We give below extensive excerpts of the second part of Special Communique N° 8:

"... THE last six months have been unquestionably a most seething period of the revolution in South Viet Nam. In that length of time the armed forces and people accomplished great exploits in all fields which have rejoiced and fired the whole nation as well as our friends all over the world.

IN THE MILITARY FIELD

First we have put out of action an important number of enemy soldiers and destroyed a big quantity of material and war means of the enemy. In these six months we:

— Killed, wounded or captured 380,000 enemy troops, including 133,000 G.I.s and satellite soldiers. The enemy units put out of action or badly mauled were: 4 regiments, 16 armoured squadrons, a multi-battalion unit of paratroops, 13 battalions, 516 companies.

— Put out of action over 4,400 planes and helicopters, 8,730 military vehicles, including 4,560 armoured cars and tanks, 560 war vessels and cargo boats, 700 cannons and mortars.

— Destroyed 500 depôts of ammunition, bombs, fuel and military equipment as well as 550 bridges and foot bridges.

As a result, the enemy had to hurriedly replace or replenish one quarter of his troop strength, change or repair all their planes, helicopters and armoured cars in South Viet Nam.

In addition to this, hundreds of thousands of soldiers have left the rank of the puppet army.

The achievements of these six months by far surpassed the ones scored in all previous years in the sense that they were accomplished on a more difficult terrain offered by the coastal areas and the towns and that all enemy crack units were badly hit.

Second, we have outmanoeuvred the enemy in all their strategic schemes, further aggravating their passiveness and predicament.

We have brought the war right into the rear of the enemy. We fought and held our ground, for days, in the towns including provincial capitals and townships, taking the enemy by surprise and attacking them even after their defences had been reinforced. We hit various nerve organs and key positions of the enemy and applied a constant pressure on them with our repeated infantry and artillery assaults in the towns, especially in Saigon — Cho Lon — Gia Dinh.

We have dealt a decisive blow at the enemy's "search-and-destroy" and "pacification" plans, forcing them to withdraw behind their urban defences and to take a very passive strategic posture throughout South Viet Nam.

We have turned the enemy beefing-up aimed at tilting the balance of forces in his favour into a rescue and reinforcing effort in face of the rapid quantitative and qualitative growth of the P.L.A.F. and made the sudden change in the overall military situation more and more unfavourable to the enemy.

Third, we have drawn invaluable lessons for our advance toward complete victory — lessons on determination, on the combination of the various aspects of our struggle and of the actions in the towns and the countryside, on the use and building of our forces, etc.

IN THE POLITICAL FIELD

First, the uprisings by the townspeople have become more and more resolute, better and better organized, gaining both in momentum and scope.

The popular movement has taken root firmly among the labouring people, students and intellectuals while drawing in large numbers from other sections of the population including puppet administrative personnel and puppet armymen. It has succeeded in rallying the masses, tapping an inexhaustible source of strength, and further enhancing the sense of great national unity. On the other hand, it has bared the true nature of the enemy and completely isolated them. It is not only a political struggle, but has also become a real network of guerilla war in the towns, thus planting a dagger into the chest of the enemy.

Second, we have expanded the free zone, liberated millions more of people and hundreds of villages. The people in various rural areas have risen up resolutely to overthrow the puppet administration and wrest back power. Revolutionary power has been established in many localities. The fighting, production and cultural activities in the liberated rural areas have thus been stepped up.

Third, as a result, the N.F.L.'s influence and prestige have been felt more and more strongly in the towns. The Front's Political Program is influencing various social strata in localities, motivating them to dash forward, to liberate the South, defend the North and eventually achieve the reunification of the country.

Meanwhile, the coming into being of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has further broadened the national united front. The Alliance, though youthful, has grown up quickly and is exerting an increasing influence on the urban population. No amount of brutality and perfidy can contain such a political force.

IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD

OUR successes have dealt a severe blow at the economy of the United States and plunged that of the puppet regime into a critical State.

The economy of the United States known to be one of affluence has been impaired by its war of aggression in Viet Nam, by the constant need for more troops and war means to feed the war in face of successive bitter setbacks.

Every year it costs the U.S. as many as 35 billion dollars, or nearly half the U.S. military budget in the current fiscal year and is therefore the costliest war in the U.S. history (the three-year Korean war bill was only 21.5 billion dollars).

As for the already ailing economy of the Saigon puppet administration, it has been virtually paralyzed under the impact of our armed forces and people's concerted attacks and uprisings.

The 1968 budget of the puppet administration planned at 95 billion piastres — 44 billion from taxes, 26 billion from U.S. aid and 25 billion from loans — is facing a deficit of some 50 billion since only less than one-third of the taxes can be levied and the sale of goods has come to a standstill.

On the other hand the economy of our people in the liberated zone, in spite of enemy bombs and shells, has been steadily developing at the same tempo as the general offensives and widespread uprisings, adequately catering to the needs of our armed forces and people.

THESE are the salient features of the period of surging revolution in which the revolutionary forces, giving no respite to the U.S. and its puppets, are resolutely pushing forward their offensives and uprisings in defence of all desperate, brutal, fascist reactions by the enemy in order to win many more successes and complete victory.

These facts also indicate the critical situation of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen and of their utter obduracy. The enemy have resorted to all conceivable perfidious and cynical tricks and inhuman acts in an attempt to prolong the life of the moribund puppet administration. They are still clinging to their aggressive design against our country and attempting to put our people under the yoke of U.S. neo-colonialism. They are seeking ways and means to conceal their humiliating failure, bolster up each other's morale, and fool public opinion.

However cunning and perfidious, the enemy can in no way hide the truth and have had to acknowledge the change in their military strategy from "search-and-destroy" to "hold-and-clear". In fact they have given up their strategic, but risky counter-offensives launched in the hope of scoring some successes and are now switching to defensive counter-attacks aimed at preventing our assaults and holding on at all costs. They are at present living in the constant danger of being attacked. That a person continually afraid of being attacked says he is "stronger than ever" is truly ridiculous.

On August 5, 1968

U.S. Losses in 4 Years' Escalation in North Viet Nam: 3,082 Aircraft

ON August 5, 1968, fourth anniversary of the first piratic raids of U.S. fighter-bombers against the D.R.V.N., Vinh Linh area, on the 17th parallel, downed its 200th enemy plane, while its neighbour, Quang Binh province, bagged its 501st. Four days earlier, Ha Tinh province, the northern neighbour of Quang Binh, grounded the 200th U.S. plane over its territory.

Let us recall that on the same day (August 1) Nghe An province, a part of which lies south of the 19th parallel, brought down the 400th plane, while Thanh Hoa province, Hanoi and Haiphong knocked out of the sky respectively the 272nd plane on June 4, the 255th on June 23 and the 211th on June 30.

The total number of U.S. planes lost in North Viet Nam ran to 3,082 on August 5, 1968.

U.S. Steps Up Aggressive War

ACCORDING to Western sources, on August 1, nearly 100 American transport planes landed at Da Nang a reinforcement of 4,000 G.Is from Brigade 1, Motorized Infantry Division 5. This new contingent of troops brought U.S. buid-up in South Viet Nam to nearly 550,000 men.

Thus, in the last few days the United States has introduced into South Viet Nam nearly 8,000 U.S. and satellite soldiers. It must be recalled that the U.S. has recently forced its Thai lackeys to dispatch to South Viet Nam 3,500 mercenaries from the "Black Panther" Division.

Parallel with these troop reinforcements, the U.S. rulers ceaselessly threaten to go on with their war escalation in both zones of Viet Nam.

State Secretary Dean Rusk declared on July 19 that North Viet Nam should show reciprocity, and insisted on a price for the cessation of U.S. bombing.

At a press conference on July 31, President Johnson said it was always possible that the U.S. would act promptly by stepping up military measures, should the military situation of U.S. and satellite troops in South Viet Nam deteriorate.

Following that press conference, he made public on August 1 a White House statement calling on world opinion to bring pressure to bear on North Viet Nam so that it would show the same "restraint" as the U.S.

The above-mentioned facts indicate on the one hand that the U.S. aggressors are so die-hard as to go ahead with their aggressive plans against Viet Nam and on the other that they are bogged down in a more and more critical state of passiveness. The new reinforcements show that whatever the troop strength thrown into battle may be, the aggressors always feel the impact of the shortage of manpower and inability to make good the losses caused by the relentless attacks of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people.

Troop increase followed by setback, new beefing up trailed by fresh failure such is the vicious circle in which the Johnson administration is caught.

ON August 4, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the D.R.V.N. published a statement denouncing Washington's manoeuvres to intensify the war of aggression in Viet Nam. The statement pointed out that the U.S. must be held responsible for the lack of progress in the current Paris talks. It added with this stern warning:

"It is clear that U.S. failure is left in no doubt. The more obduracy it shows in stepping up the war, the quicker it heads towards total defeat".

IN a statement made public on August 5, the spokesman of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, after denouncing U.S. war intensification and its crimes against the South Vietnamese people, declared:

"So long as the U.S. imperialists pursue their aggression in South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people will fight on. They will resolutely attack and wipe out the U.S. aggressors and their flunkeys at any time and in any place, so as to completely defeat the U.S. war of aggression, overthrow the whole puppet administration, and save the country and their own families. This is the just, inalienable right to self-defence of the South Vietnamese people, which is fully consistent with the fundamentals of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law. It goes without saying that the Vietnamese people, in their just fight, have the right to receive wholehearted, all-out and all-round assistance from their 17 million fellow countrymen of the North and their friends in the five continents.

"As the U.S. has unprovokedly attacked North Viet Nam — an independent and sovereign state — it must put an end to its aggression. It has no right to set any condition whatsoever for the unconditional cessation of its bombing raids and all other acts of war on the whole D.R.V.N. territory.

"The U.S. ruling circles cannot shake the fighting spirit of the Vietnamese people by stepping up its war in both parts of Viet Nam. On the contrary, this will only exasperate the Vietnamese people's hatred, and make them close further their ranks and hit harder at their enemy. The U.S. ruling circles' obduracy and bellicosity only bare the fallacy of their so-called 'goodwill for peace', and will certainly invite stronger protest from the progressive people in the world and in the United States itself."

North Viet Nam

XA DOAI DIOCESE CATHEDRAL AREA TURNED INTO RUBBLE BY U.S. BOMBS

ON July 21, 1968 U.S. planes attacked the whole area of the cathedral of Xa Doai diocese, Nghi Loc district, Nghe An province, and completely devastated it.

The Xa Doai cathedral, built over a century ago, was one of the biggest in North Viet Nam. It occupied an area of 2 sq kilometres. Besides the cathedral, there were a great seminary, a small seminary, a nuns' chapel, a bishopric, a convent, a presbytery, a hospital and hundreds of Catholics' dwelling houses.

At noon that day, 16 A-4 and F-4 planes coming in many flights, bombed and strafed the small seminary area (which was completely demolished) and the cathedral as well as many houses. At the same time, they struck at the great seminary and the presbytery.

Two hours later, other U.S.A.F. planes hammered at the great seminary area, the chapel and the cathedral.

At 5 p.m. other planes flew in, bombed and strafed the cathedral, the bishopric, the Amantes de la Croix convent, the hospital and the dwelling houses nearby.

These air raids have reduced the cathedral area of Xa Doai diocese into heaps of bricks and ashes. All the 14 stations of the Cross, more than one hundred statues of the Holy Virgin and Christ and Saints were destroyed by U.S. bombs and bullets. Objects of worship and thousands of prayer books were burnt. U.S. aircraft also destroyed 45 houses of Catholics, killed 20 people and wounded 54 others.

Mrs Nguyen Thi Hung, 74, who was saying her prayers in the cathedral and Mrs Nguyen Thi Thanh, an expectant mother, were killed. Bishop Tran Huu Duc, 78, and his coadjutor Nguyen Dinh Nhien, 76, abbots Sang, Cuong Hong and An and many nuns were wounded.

This was not the first time the U.S. aggressors attacked the cathedral area of Xa Doai diocese. Between March 31 and July 21, 1968, that locality was the target of 47 raids by U.S. planes.

Support South Viet Nam Students' Action for Freedom and Democracy!

INDIGNATION runs high among the students in Saigon together with their mounting overt campaign against the U.S. aggressors and tue Thieu-Ky-Huong trio of quislings.

The direct cause of this situation is the heinous crimes committed by the U.S. and its quislings against students. On July 20, they killed Tran Quoc Chuong, a medical student, throwing him off hands and feet bound from the third floor of the medical college building. On July 25, their military court sentenced Nguyen Truong Con, managing-editor of the paper *Sinh Vien* (Students), to 5 years' hard labour on the ground that his paper had carried "articles sympathetic to communism". On July 31, they sentenced in absentia Nguyen Dang Trung, President of Saigon Students' General Association, to 10 years' hard labour for his "implication in pro-communist press articles."

The above crime and arbitrary sentences spell out the ruthlessness of the U.S. aggressors and their myrmidons' repression against the students' movement in South Viet Nam urban centres. Their turning of higher education establishments into chambers of torture, their murder of students in a gangster-like manner and their jailing of student activists are but the last-ditch attempt of a wild animal at bay and expose all the more clearly their ignominious failure to deceive and entice the students while betraying their fear in face of the movement of students, pupils and townsfolk.

Coupled with other hysteric actions such as B.52 bombing of populated areas around towns and cities, in absentia condemnation of members of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, arrest and imprisonment of people who are at odds with them, their crimes against the students lay bare their ugly fascist nature and their utter isolation.

Together with the Saigon students, we call on the students and public opinion in the world to support the South Viet Nam students' action for freedom and democracy, and to condemn the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys' outright flouting of human rights and justice.

U.S. and Quislings' Fresh Crimes in South Viet Nam

DESTROY ALL, BURN ALL, KILL ALL

ON June 17 and 18, the enemy flattened a dozen villages and hamlets in 4 districts between Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces along Highway No 1. Hundreds of thousands of graves were churned up, and the unearthed coffins and skeletons were then ploughed back into the earth by bulldozers. Ponds and wells were filled up. Vegetation, gardens and ricefields were devastated. In additon to this, choppers killed with grenades all the people who refused to leave their homes and villages — though these had been razed to the ground — for "refugees camps".

SPRAYING OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

ON July 7, 1968, the U.S. aggressors sprayed 5 tons of toxic chemicals on a village in Cao Lanh district, Kien Phong province, south of South Viet Nam. In the north of South Viet Nam, in the first nine days of July, Go Noi region Dien Ban district Quang Nam province, was three times doused with toxic chemicals. The last spraying by U.S. planes which lasted for three hours on July 9 caused the poisoning of thousands of people, the death of a great number of cattle and poultry and the ruin of various crops.

B.52 RAIDS

TWO flights of B.52 planes released on July 21 500 bombs on a populated area of Thien Ke village, Cao Lanh district, Kien Phong province, lying along the Nguyen Van Tiep canal; then G.I.s swarmed in to complete the killing and destruction. The same treatment was given to 12 villages stretching on 100 km along the Eastern Vam Co river, and Western Vam Co river, 30—40km west and northwest of Saigon; in May and June 1968, these villages were the targets of 240 bombing raids by B.52s which caused great losses in human lives and the destruction of thousands of hectares of farmland.

Youth Festival States its Support for Viet Nam

Statement of the 9th World Festival of Youth and Students

The 9th World Festival of Youth and Students in Sofia attended by 20,000 representatives of 500 national organizations from 142 countries has issued a statement expressing solidarity with the Vietnamese people, reports from the Bulgarian capital said.

Here are excerpts from it:

"*We condemn the criminal aggression of U.S. imperialism against the heroic Vietnamese people.*

"*We denounce the barbarous crimes daily committed by the U.S. aggressors with a view to depriving the people of Viet Nam of the right to live in freedom and independence.*

"*Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese. We proclaim the inalienable right of the Vietnamese people to shape their own destiny, live freely in their independent country, preserve their territorial integrity and achieve the reunification of Viet Nam.*

"*The cause of the Vietnamese people is that of all the people...*

"*So long as the U.S. pursues its aggression, we pledge ourselves to step up our multiform actions to support the fight of the entire people of Viet Nam in both the North and the South, and even to go to Viet Nam to fight side by side with the Vietnamese patriots when and if the latter request us to.*

"*We are for the preparation for a great world rally of youth and students in support and for the victory of the Vietnamese people and for freedom, independence and peace.*

"*We denounce the stubborn and perfidious attitude of the U.S. representative at the Paris talks. We demand that the U.S. immediately and unconditionally stop its bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., so that the Paris talks could progress.*

"*We demand the withdrawal of U.S. and satellites troops from South Viet Nam and recognition of the South Viet Nam National Front, for Liberation whose Political program meets the aspirations of the entire South Vietnamese people*".

At the 9th Festival: Bulgarian girls presenting their Vietnamese friends with souvenirs.

D.R.V.N. GOVERNMENT FLAYS U.S. STEPPED UP PREPARATIONS FOR NEW AGGRESSION IN KOREA

THE Government of the D.R.V.N. on August 5 issued a statement sternly condemning the U.S. imperialists' stepped up preparations for a new war of aggression in Korea.

The statement strongly denounced the so-called "U.S.-ROK joint defence treaty" intended to legalize the occupation of South Korea by U.S. troops, to turn South Korea into a U.S. colony and military base and to use it as a spring-board to assault the D.P.R. of Korea. It exposed the systematic military provocations committed by the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique against the D.P.R. of Korea. It stressed:

"The Government of the D.R.V.N. energetically condemns the war provocative schemes and acts of the U.S. imperialists against the D.P.R. of Korea. The Government of the D.R.V.N. fully supports the position of the Government of the D.P.R. of Korea expounded in its memorandum of July 25, 1968, which demanded that the U.S. aggressors put an immediate end to their colonialist policy in South Korea, give up turning South Korea into their military base, withdraw U.S. troops from South Korea, and stop every move aimed at preparing a new war against the Korean people.

"The withdrawal of the U.S. aggressor troops from South Korea is an urgent demand of the Armistice and the main condition for the peaceful unification of Korea. In whatever circumstance, the unification of Korea must be settled by the Korean people themselves in a completely independent way and neither the United Nations nor any other outside forces have the right to interfere."

Vietnamese People Support Japan, Guinea and Cape Verde's Anti-Imperialist Struggles

A meeting was held in Hanoi on August 6 by the Viet Nam Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, the Viet Nam World Peace Committee and the Viet Nam – Japan Friendship Association on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Japanese People (August 6).

After the opening address by Ton Quang Phiet, President of the Viet Nam Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, a speech was delivered by Ha Xuan Truong, Vice-Minister of Culture, Vice-President of the Viet Nam – Japan Friendship Association, on the Japanese people's heroic struggle against U.S. aggressors and Japanese monopoly capitalists. On behalf of the Vietnamese people, Ha Xuan Truong sincerely thanked the Japanese people for their staunch support and valuable contribution to the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. He wished the Japanese people greater successes in their action against the common enemy – the U.S. aggressors.

The meeting passed a resolution demanding cancellation of the "Japan - U.S. security treaty," the dismantling of all U.S. military bases in Japan and withdrawal of U.S. troops from Japan.

ON the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde (August 3, 1968) the daily *Nhan Dan* (People) organ of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, carried an article warmly hailing the event. After recalling the frantic repression undertaken nine years ago (August 3, 1959) by the Portuguese colonialists against the dockers who staged a strike in the port of Bissau, the article praised the big victories won by the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde in their armed struggle to wrest back independence and freedom. The article stressed:

"The Portuguese colonialists ruthlessly quelled the struggle of the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde. With the assistance of many NATO countries headed by the U.S., they mounted terrorist raids, used napalm and phosphorous bombs against villages and civilians. But in defiance of difficulties and privations the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde led by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde have been keeping up their resistance to the Portuguese colonialists.

"The Vietnamese people wholeheartedly support the righteous struggle of the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde. With their unflinching fighting spirit and the strong support of the African peoples and progressive forces in the world, the patriotic armed forces and peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde will certainly carry the day."

Transport Workers and Dockers in Asia and the Pacific Support Viet Nam

THE Preparatory Consultative Conference of Transport Workers and Dockers of Asia and the Pacific met on July 17 in Marseilles (France). Delegates from many countries took the floor to express the solidarity of their peoples and workers—especially transport workers—with those of Viet Nam as well as their moral and material support to the struggle of the Vietnamese people and workers.

The delegate of the Japanese Railway Workers T.U. said that Japanese dockers had refused to load Viet Nam bound weapons and war materials and that as from May 21, they had forced the U.S. rulers to cancel their arm and ammunition loading plan at Kitakyushu port.

The delegate of the International Transports and Communications T.U. spoke of the actions of transport workers and dockers throughout the world in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation. He mentioned among other things the Australian dockers' two-hour strike as a protest against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The Conference condemned the obstinacy of the U.S. in its Paris talks with the representatives of the D.R.V.N. government and demanded the unconditional cessation of U.S. bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.

The Conference unanimously passed a resolution calling on transport workers in Asia and the Pacific to step up actions against the U.S. war in Viet Nam and envisaging a conference of the International T.U. of Transport workers of Asia and the Pacific in order to rally Transport T.U. organizations for support of the Vietnamese people's struggle.

The Villagers Go to the Polls

FROM the northernmost province of Quang Tri to the southernmost province of Ca Mau every where in South Viet Nam liberated areas people are enthusiastically engaged in establishing the revolutionary power. Slogans displayed in front of administrative offices or along the roads urge people to "put the right men in the right place" to represent them in public affairs.

Elections are the topics of conversation of everyone in the midst of the fighting and production. An old man in a village of central Nam Bo said, "For twenty three years it is the second time that I have the opportunity to discuss state affairs and to be master of my life". Mr. T., X. village, Trieu Phong district, Quang Tri province, also commented, "In my life time, I have had only two occasions to choose people's representatives". These two citizens living in regions wide apart were recalling the days of independence and freedom when they took part in the elections after the August Revolution in 1945. For them, all the "elections" staged by the U.S. and quislings were nonexistent. That reminds one of Western press reports about the lukewarm attitude of the inhabitants in the "rural elections" held at the end of last year in which voters were escorted to the polling booths by G.I.'s and puppet troops.

Now the solemn election day has come. Though not held on the same day everywhere, the elections are regarded by the inhabitants as a great occasion. Megaphones resound everywhere and uniform dances are performed throughout the countryside. N.F.L. flags flutter in the wind as if to greet the voters in their go-to-meeting clothes.

Holding a ballot paper in her hands, Miss K. living in a village of Rach Gia province mused, looking at the list of candidates: "Whom must I vote for? All the candidates are stalwarts in the movement. They have been closely associated with the people as early as the days of concerted uprisings. Savagely persecuted by the enemy they have clung to the people, to the revolution. Every night they met in lonely places in a flickering light to discuss measures to protect the inhabitants. All their belongings consisted of a small hammock, a change of clothes and a few books. In the flood season, they had to walk a whole day to reach the hamlets. If the people were in need of draught animals and food, if their children were unwell, they would lend a helping hand. They even helped stablize the prices of rice and meat. They are loved by the people like their dear ones. Which of them shall I elect to revolutionary people's councils?"

Flouting enemy raids and overcoming all difficulties, the inhabitants in South Viet Nam liberated areas make it a point to go to the polls. People of Binh Chanh village, Long An province, braved enemy shells and bombs to go to vote. After clearing the ruins and attending to the victims of a B.52 raid, villagers of Tra Vinh province immediately resumed their voting business. The highlanders in Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan provinces, southern part of Central Viet Nam, were all present at the polling stations though they had to stop their farming for a few days.

Two hundreds out of nearly 500 villages in Central Nam Bo have set up revolutionary power. In Ben Tre province, the cradle of the concerted uprisings in 1960, up to 70 villages have done the voting. Though Thua Thien and Quang Tri are two war-torn provinces close to the 17th parallel, the districts of Phu Loc, Phu Vang, Huong Thuy and Huong Dien, in the former, and the district of Chi Lang, in the latter, have established rural people's councils and appointed a Liberation people's committee at district level.

Members of revolutionary people's councils and of Liberation people's committees have been presented to the population. Hundreds of meetings have been held to welcome the revolutionary power and people's representatives. Programmes of action have been issued to urge the people to rush forward, attack the enemy unremittingly and consolidate the countryside by developing the health and education services, bending their moral and physical energies in the service of the revolution. The newly-elected representatives have expressed to the people their determination to carry through their programmes, and the people have promised to implement all administrative decisions.

Mother Tu, Hoa My village, Can Tho province, declared at a meeting welcoming the representative, "Now that our revolutionary rule has been set up, we must protect it against all enemy sabotage". She voiced the common feeling of the people for the administration they have chosen themselves. A people who have been fighting with such a deep sense of self-sacrifice for over a quarter of a century and have wrested back power, will certainly fight to the bitter end to defend it.

The Call of Spring

*THERE is a very close relationship between that historic march undertaken in the spring of 1789 by our forefathers to liberate Hanoi and our present departure for the frontline. We too are bringing the splendour of spring to the battlefields, to the fatherland. In us are the souls of the soldiers of Nguyen Hue *.*

Months and years have gone by. Today, on our beloved and martyred land, once again resounds the call of spring.

It calls to us not only from the frontline, but also from the bottom of our burning hearts. Its voice is coming to us from the hot barrels of the guns we are carrying on our shoulders, as we march forward in the spring drizzle. For us the sacred voice of spring is not embodied in the twitter of a bird or an early apricot blossom. It screams out this one fiery word: "Vengeance!"

Nowhere else do insurgents go to battle with such burning hatred in their hearts. Nowhere else are they prompted by such a forceful urge for vengeance, by such grim determination to fight and win.

For thousands of nights, we have been on the march on this martyred land. As our steps bring us closer to the battlefield, we listen to the whispering voice of the fatherland. How full of anger and hatred it is!

Marching alongside of me is a Liberation soldier carrying an explosive charge. He is talking, his voice soft and gentle like a whisper from the native land or the murmur of a night drizzle. He is a member of a shock unit. His wife was killed last year by the Americans who dropped gas grenades into a shelter he had dug for her before he left. He doesn't give details of her death, but speaks about their wedding night: he was so poor, the plots of land given him by the people's regime during the anti-French resistance war having been taken away from him. That night, he took his wife's hand and said softly: "I must go now, I'll return at dawn." He went out into the night and the rain, a ragged shirt on his sunburnt back, and a fishing net in his hand. His mother would sell the catch in the morning and buy enough rice for the three of them to subsist that day.

The commander of the unit is walking ahead of us. He doesn't even know where his wife is now. The day he left his village and joined the Revolution — after sneaking past scores of watchtowers in strategic hamlets, crossing three rivers and climbing two mountains—the enemy arrested his wife, lashed her to a post, and filled the legs of her trousers, which they had tied at the end, with earthworms. All night, the village people heard her screams.

The young scout walking by his side is only sixteen. The day he joined our ranks, he stood at attention like a seasoned soldier and said in a ringing voice: "Give me a gun, the biggest gun you have. They killed my father."

The Yank had dragged his father to the beach. He had a knife but he didn't use it. Instead, he sharpened an ebony stick which he had taken from the altar of the house, and very slowly drove it into the old man's chest, through his heart.

Innumerable are the tragic stories whispered to us during our long nightly marches, by our native land, our villages and hamlets, our brothers, sisters, comrades, and by our own selves.

We have killed many Americans, many traitors to the country, we have razed many enemy military posts, so that spring may come to our land. But spring has not yet come. It is still calling to us. This time we must exterminate the enemy, we must wipe dry the tears and blood of our dear ones and our own tears and blood, on this land which is as beautiful as a piece of brocade.

Apricot and peach blossoms can come into full bloom only in this great and sacred revenge battle.

The call of spring resounds, pressing for immediate action.

NGUYEN TRUNG THANH

(From *Liberation Arts and Letters*)

* Nguyen Hue was the national hero who in 1789 led the patriotic troops to liberate Hanoi from foreign occupation.

SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS IN ALBANIA, BULGARIA, MONGOLIA AND RUMANIA

IN order to further strengthen and develop the friendship and militant solidarity between the South Viet Nam people and those of the People's Republic of Albania, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of Mongolia and the Socialist Republic of Rumania, the Presidium of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. has just appointed Mr. Nguyen Xuan Long, Mr. Huynh Phan, Mr. Dang Quang Minh and Mr. Nguyen Duc Van, as respective heads of South Viet Nam N.F.L. permanent representations in the above-mentioned countries, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported.

Military Operations

★ **About 30 Enemy Positions Shelled in a Week.**

★ **350 G.I.s Killed, Wounded or Captured in 3 Engagements in Tay Ninh Province.**

★ **A puppet Company Attacked in Saigon's 5th District.**

★ **Enemy Communications Stormed: an American General Wounded in a P.L.A.F. Surprise Attack Against a Riverine Task Force.**

DEVASTATING ACTIVITY OF P.L.A.F. ARTILLERY

P.L.A.F. artillery was devastatingly active in the first week of August. Western sources reported at least some 30 P.L.A.F. bombardments of U.S. and puppet positions and C.P.s chiefly in towns and cities.

On the night of July 31, P.L.A.F. artillery fire hit the H.Q. of puppet Division 25 and C.P. of Hau Nghia military sector, respectively 25km and 34km west-northwest of Saigon, three positions between 70 and 120km South and southeast of Da Nang, and Tan Lam base on Highway n° 9 where the G.I.s took 60 casualties and had 2 big guns and 4 military vehicles destroyed.

On August 2, P.L.A.F. shells rained on enemy installations at Quang Ngai town, 120km southeast of Da Nang, and Sa Dec town, in the Mekong delta, a C.P. 30km northwest of Saigon, Blao airfield, 150km northeast of Saigon, and an American company just helilifted on a hilltop 12km southwest of Tam Lam and took a toll of about one hundred enemy soldiers.

The following day, the barrack of a puppet unit at Hoi An town, 24km southeast of Da Nang, and the C.P. of a unit of South Korean troops, southwest of Hoi An, were the targets of a heavy P.L.A.F. bombardment. On the night of August 3 enemy positions including a hovercraft base and a battalion C.P. at Cao Lanh town, 120km west-southwest of Saigon, came under a fierce pounding.

The following day, P.L.A.F. guns attacked Ba Ria town and a fortified island, both of them not far from Vung Tau, a U.S. aero-naval base 60 km southeast of Saigon, a subsector C.P., a position of puppet Rangers in Tri Ton region, 185 km, west-southwest of Saigon, and a military airfield near Tay Hoa, 380km northeast of Saigon.

On the night of August 5, P.L.A.F. batteries plastered a sub-sector C.P. 10 km southwest of the suburbs of Saigon, an enemy position at Chau Doc town, 170 km west of Saigon, and a C.P. in Hue region.

IMPORTANT ENEMY FORCES WIPED OUT BY P.L.A.F.

THE P.L.A.F. dealt deadly blows at U.S. units on July 23, 26 and 31 in Tay Ninh province, near the Cambodian border, northwest of Saigon, causing 350 American casualties, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported.

On July 30, a battalion C.P. 40 km northwest of Saigon, was shelled and then stormed by the P.L.A.F. a puppet company suffered heavy losses. Western agencies have just reported that on August 5 and 6 U.S. Airmobile Division 101 came under fierce P.L.A.F. attacks on the Eastern Vam Co river, 35 km west of Saigon.

In Cu Chi region, known for guerillas' exploits, 103 G.I's were killed or wounded and a big *Chinook* downed between July 21 and 24 by guerillas in 6 villages.

12 km southwest of Saigon gate, in a two-day engagement (July 24 and 25) the P.L.A.F. put out of action 150 enemy troops and downed 3 helicopters. On August 2, Western agencies said, they mounted the 7th raid 5 days on an enemy post about 20 km farther and destroyed 90 per cent of its installations.

In **Saigon** itself, the guerillas assaulted on August 3, 3 localities including the residence of a puppet minister and on the night of August 4, intercepted a puppet Ranger company near Phu Tho race-course, in the Fifth district.

In the **Mekong Delta**, the P.L.A.F. were most active in **My Tho** province (its capital is 60km southwest of Saigon). From July 25 to 27, they blasted the U.S. base at Binh Duc, causing 220 American casualties. On July 27, a P.L.A.F. surprise attack on a military training centre near My Tho town wiped out 200 recruits. On July 30, in a counter-attack against an operation mounted by 3 battalions of puppet Division 7 in Cai Be district, the P.L.A.F. put out of action 125 enemy soldiers and seized a great quantity of weapons. Guerillas at My Tho town stormed 13 military and administrative targets on the night of July 31 and on the night of August 1 despite enemy security precautions.

In **Tra Vinh** province, Brigade 2, U.S. Division 9, and Regiment 14, puppet Division 9, sustained serious losses on July 15, 16, 17 in a region about 100 km southwest of Saigon: 250 G.I.s and many puppet soldiers were killed or wounded, 5 vessels burnt or sunk and 10 aircraft downed or damaged.

Near **Soc Trang** town, where an airfield is located, the patriotic forces decimated a puppet company and flattened an important post, and freed 3 villages from the enemy's grip.

In the outskirt of the **Plain of Reeds,** they fought off a raid around Sadec town, putting out of action 268 enemy troops and destroying 5 armoured cars and a 105mm cannon between July 14 and 24. On July 25, they intercepted 3 puppet battalions operating 120km west-southwest of Saigon, and inflicted one hundred casualties on the adversary.

In the coastal provinces of **Central Trung Bo**, Northeast of Saigon, enemy losses were also heavy.

In **Quang Nam** province where Da Nang is located, *Giai Phong* Press Agency announced that between July 17 and August 2, regional troops and guerillas put out of action 530 enemy soldiers, downed 2 aircraft and destroyed 33 vehicles and 7 bridges. A U.S. position about 30km southwest of Da Nang was overrun on August 1.

Further south, in an engagement near **Que Son,** 70 G.Is were killed or wounded and many firearms captured on July 23. In an attack on the following day against Chu Lai base and H.Q. of U.S. Brigade 198, the P.L.A.F. penetrated into the armoured vehicle park and destroyed 15 armoured cars, 5 choppers and 50 tents.

Western sources revealed that a column of 20 U.S. marines and 60 puppet troops was virtually wiped out on August 3, 23km north of **Quang Ngai** town near Chu Lai.

Another remarkable exploit of the guerillas in **Binh Dinh** province was the July 10 successful mine attack on a cinema hall at the base of puppet Regiment 41, in which 155 adverse troops (including 3 U.S. "advisers") were killed or wounded.

VIOLENT GUERILLA ATTACKS ON COMMUNICATION LINES — A U. S. GENERAL WOUNDED

THREE attacks were mounted last week by the P.L.A.F. against enemy Riverine Task Forces Western agencies disclosed: one of them was intercepted on August 2, 24km southeast of Saigon, and another near Vinh Long town, 90km southwest of Saigon: 4 vessels were damaged.

The third attack was launched on August 5 against the puppet 27th Riverine Task Force 21km southeast of Saigon. A.F.P. reported that soon after a chopper had landed a group of American officers on these landing-ships, the patriotic forces on both riverbanks opened an intense fire. General Franklin M. Davis Jr., commanding U.S. Brigade 199, several other officers and many men were seriously wounded. Davis was the 7th American general officer wounded by South Viet Nam patriots, the same source remarked.

The same day, 270 km northeast of that locality, a train was blown up by a mine. On this occasion, *Reuter* commented that of the 1,330 kilometres of railway tracks in South Viet Nam, only 56 kilometres are in operation, because of P.L.A.F. actions, and that for two years now, no locomotive whistle has been heard at Saigon station.

Roads were also choice targets of the P.L.A.F. On July 21, a truck convoy escorted by armoured cars was intercepted at Mang Yang mountain pass between Qui Nhon and Pleiku, 220 km South of Da Nang: 13 vehicles were destroyed.

25 km southwest of Saigon, the guerillas succeeded on August 6 in sinking 8 barges of the pontoon bridge, substitute for the Ben Luc bridge, through which Highway no 4 from Saigon to the Mekong delta passes, thus blocking the traffic, Western sources reported. Let us recall that the 800-metre iron bridge spanning the Eastern Vam Co river was blown up by the P.L.A.F. on June 30 last despite enemy stringent security measures.

ERRATA

Paragraph 2, column 5, page 8, *Viet Nam Courier*, last issue, should be read as follows:

Further south, on the night of July 28, the airfield in the Tuy Hoa provincial capital was bombarded then assaulted by the P.L.A.F. who destroyed *many aircraft including 2 big C.130 transports and at least a F.100* Super Sabre *fighter bomber.*

A P.L.A.F. all-women mortar unit